

NO, NO, NO, don't let the media consolidate any more

I am writing to you today to comment on Docket No. 02-277. I believe that the media is already controlled by far too few people. Corporations are NOT politically neutral, and if you allow too few corporations to own the means of mass communications our democracy will lose the benefits of a free media. That can very adversely affect our democracy. By way of example, just look at how much the commercial media has reported on the very rule changes that you are considering.

Here in Salt Lake City we used to have our own locally owned newspaper (The Salt Lake Tribune). Unfortunately, that is no longer the case, and just recently our long-time editor was replaced by a corporate choice. How can I trust the newspaper any longer?

The rule changes that you are considering can CANNOT BE EASILY UNDONE, so as long as they could harm the millions of us who actually own the airwaves, and will only benefit very few, I ask that you don't play fast-and-loose with our airwaves. Your mandate is to protect the interests of the American people. Please listen to the American people and not just to those who have a financial interest in the rule changes that are in question. If that requires more time and public meetings then please do what needs to be done. You are supposed to be our voice, protecting our interests, not the corporate media's voice in favor of their interests. Take your job as seriously as medical doctors, who take an oath to "above all, do no harm".

Remember also that making rule changes that benefit the industry that you are charged with regulating in the public interest opens you up to charges that you've been influenced by that industry. These charges can become quite serious if you've been accepting free trips and such from that very industry.

In conclusion, since these rule changes could possibly be very harmful to we the people, can benefit only a few people in the media industry, and are almost impossible to undo once made (possibly only by legally attacking the agency that made the rule changes with charges of corruption), please take public interest seriously and reject the proposed rule changes.

Thank you,

Arn Stolp